

# THE KNOXVILLE INDEPENDENT

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PLEASANT A. STOVALL



Pleasant A. Stovall, United States minister at Bern, Switzerland, who, it is reported, may be chosen to act as medium for peace negotiations between this country and Austria.

## LLOYD GEORGE VICTOR

Government Surmounts Another British War Crisis.

Plea That America Sway Versailles Council Conquers the House of Commons.

London, Feb. 21.—Premier Lloyd George and his government have surmounted another "crisis" and the parliamentary waters at Westminster appear to run smoothly once more after a week's turmoil stirred up by the retirement of General Robertson, chief of the imperial general staff.

After the premier in the house of commons defended the present reorganization of the Versailles council with the added powers given to it and his dealings with the famous British chief of staff, there was no proposal for a vote of want of confidence, but H. H. Asquith, the former premier, expressed regret that the explanations had not been given a week ago, when the premier declared he could not go into the subject without giving information to the enemy. Mr. Asquith supported the right of parliamentary criticism in such matters.

The plan finally agreed upon by the council, Premier Lloyd George said, was due largely to the strong official representations which the American delegates had submitted in the form of a memorandum, and the premier several times reverted to the influence which American policy had exercised upon the results of the conference.

He paid warm tribute to General Robertson and expressed the regret of the government that it had been unable to induce him to take a position in which his abilities would be most useful. He declared that their personal relations always had been cordial.

## PEACE CASUALTIES TOP WAR'S

Manufacturers Told Yearly Total Is 35,000 Dead, 700,000 Hurt—Accidents Preventable.

New York, Feb. 21.—The injury of a man in the shop is as important an incident as a man disabled in the firing line, declared Frederick W. Keough, of the National Association of Manufacturers, in an address before the West Side Y. M. C. A.

Fully 50 per cent of the accidents in America, which, he said, exceed the military casualties in Europe, are preventable.

"If the prospective military casualties were announced as 35,000 dead and 700,000 wounded," Mr. Keough said, a shudder of horror would thrill the nation. But because waste of man power in industry has been commonplace, the annual industrial record is dismissed as an unpleasant necessity."

## BRITISH WIN NEW VICTORY

German Raid Repulsed and Many Huns Are Killed or Taken Prisoner.

London, Feb. 21.—A German raiding attack on British positions near Arras-en-Gohelle, south of Lens, was repulsed by the British, it is announced officially. The statement follows: "After a heavy preliminary bombardment the enemy attempted to raid our line last night east of Arras-en-Gohelle. The attacking party was completely repulsed by our troops with the loss of a number of Germans killed or taken prisoners.

"A successful local enterprise was carried out early last night northeast of Wysschaete. Several prisoners were captured by us."

## SOCIALISTS PLAN GERMAN STRIKE

Berlin Dispatch Says New Walk-out Looms in the War Plants of Kaiserland.

## MARCH 1 IS THE DATE FIXED

Russ Assassins Hit Rodzianko, Former Duma Chief—Former Chairman and Coachman Wounded in Streets of Petrograd.

London, Feb. 21.—The German independent socialists are arranging for a demonstrative strike in the munitions factories of the empire commencing March 1, according to information received from Berlin and forwarded by the Amsterdam correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph company.

## Rodzianko Attacked.

Petrograd, Feb. 21.—An attempt was made to assassinate Michael Vladimirovich Rodzianko, former chairman of the state duma. Several shots were fired by the would-be assassins, and Rodzianko and his coachman were slightly wounded.

One hundred and fifty arrests have been made in connection with the plot to kidnap Nikolai Lenin.

Colonel Muraviev, the bolshevik commander, has ordered the bankers at Kiev immediately to furnish 10,000,000 roubles to support the families of the bolsheviks killed or wounded during the fighting in Kiev.

Revolutionary Fighting Continues. Stockholm, Feb. 21.—Special reports say there has been a great deal of revolutionary fighting in Russia and in Finland. Chita, capital of Trans-Baikal (East Siberia), has been captured by revolutionary troops, and the bolshevik claim to have established their authority in that part of the country. All the Chita batteries passed into the hands of the Red guard.

The bolsheviks assert that their forces dispatched to Astrakhan have been completely victorious over the Cossacks and that all authority there has passed into the hands of the workmen's and soldiers' group.

In Finland, according to bolshevik sources, the Finnish White guards are still retreating before the Red guards, who continue to advance on the Karelskii line. The White guards are said to have virtually evacuated the line from Borgo to Helsinki.

The arrival of Finnish White guards in the Aland islands complicated the situation. Previously they had been defeated by the Red guards and fled for refuge aboard Swedish ships.

Finns Consider Offer to Swedes. London, Feb. 21.—A dispatch here from Vasa, Finland, says that although for the present the Finnish government is determined to avoid foreign intervention, there is unofficial discussion as to whether it would be profitable to cede the Aland islands to Sweden in return for active Swedish assistance against the Finnish Red guard.

The Russian council of commissaries, according to a dispatch from Petrograd to the Exchange Telegraph company, has instructed Maxim Litvinoff, the bolshevik representative in London, to lodge a protest with Great Britain against closing of the Manchurian border and the prohibition on the export of cargo and foodstuffs to Russia. The council, it is said, regards the foregoing restrictions as having been taken under Anglo-American pressure.

Should Great Britain and America refuse to countermand the above order, it is added, the Russian council will apply repressive measures against the citizens of entente allied countries resident in Russia.

## AIRCRAFT PUT UNDERGROUND

Germans Take Step to Protect Machines From British Raids in Belgium.

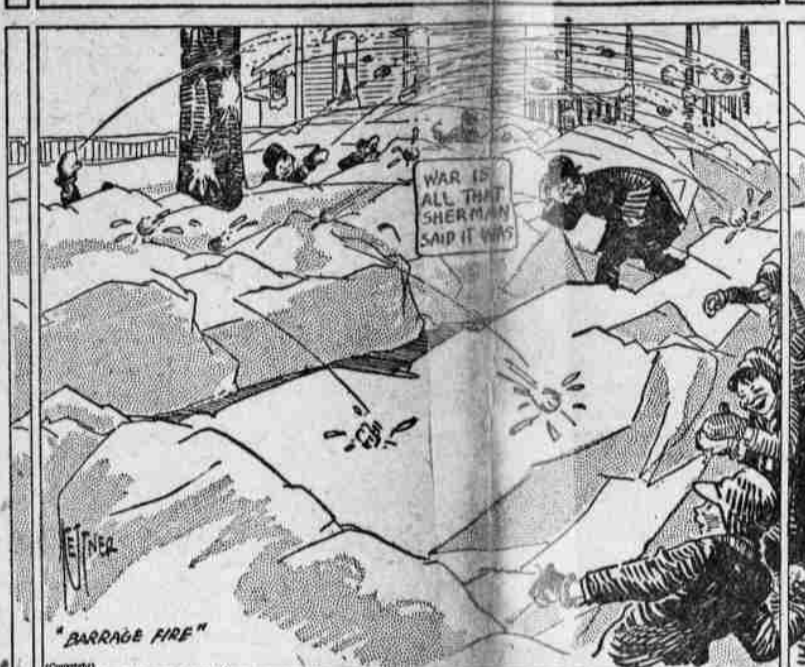
Amsterdam, Feb. 21.—The German army is now constructing underground hangars for its airplanes as protection against English bombing raids, says the Echo Belge. At one of the principal Belgian airdromes hangars of this type, capable of housing 12 machines, has been completed by the use of war prison labor. The hangars are of great depth and are protected overhead by a thick roof of concrete and earth. The machines are underground and emerge on a long runway in full flight.

## BRITISH DOWN FOUR FLYER

Naval Airmen Bombard Alder Docks in Belgium, the Admiralty Announces.

London, Feb. 21.—Naval airmen continue to bombard docks, airdromes and other targets in Belgium and have accounted for four German airplanes, the admiralty announced in a statement.

## Somewhere in the U. S. A.



## BAKER SAYS BIG DRIVE IMMINENT

Teutons Train Shock Troops for a Crushing Blow on the Western Front.

## TELLS OF SUCCESSFUL RAIDS

Secretary of War Asserts Kaiser's Chiefs Realize They Will Meet Greater Resistance Than Ever Before—Sammy in Battle.

Washington, Feb. 21.—After extensive preparations silently and systematically carried on, it is apparent that both the Germans and the allies are ready for the long expected offensive in the west, Secretary Baker said today in a statement.

"While there have been outwardly no new developments in the military situation in the west during the period under review," says the communique, "yet it is apparent that both the enemy and the allies, after extensive preparations which have been silently and systematically carried on are ready for battle. The Germans have recently withdrawn a number of their veteran west front units from the first line trenches, and are busily training them in mobile warfare.

Germans Plan Crushing Blow. "According to advices received, the German general staff hopes that by massing a large number of these picked shock battalions, which have been intensively trained, they may deliver a crushing blow.

"The bulk of the German forces is now assembled in the west. But a large number of these units are wholly untrained in the method of western front warfare, which differs radically from that conducted along other fronts. Furthermore, the German high command realizes fully that their forces will meet with far more difficult tactical obstacles than any hitherto encountered by an attacking army. A break through was possible in Russia only after the morale of the Russians had been undermined; the same was true in Italy and we witnessed how speedily the Italian line was mended.

"During the week there has been much activity of a minor character along the entire western front.

Americans in Encounters. "As has already been announced, in Lorraine a segment of the line is entirely under the control of our forces. Along our front patrol encounters were numerous. The Germans undertook a raid against our positions and succeeded in inflicting a few casualties. A small American patrol while scouting in 'No Man's Land' was ambushed by the enemy.

"The weather was very rainy during the first part of the week and our troops were busy manning the pumps in an effort to keep their trenches dry. "In Champagne units of American artillery participated in an engagement undertaken by French forces. This operation was the most important of the week in the west. After very careful artillery preparation during which our batteries co-operated with French infantry advanced to the front southwest of the Butte du Mesnil along a front of about 1,400 yards.

"The French succeeded in penetrating the German positions, broke through the second and reached the third German line. During this brisk attack the French destroyed many enemy shelters, inflicted much damage to enemy positions besides bringing back 150 prisoners.

"Other successful raids were undertaken by French detachments in the vicinity of the Chemin des Dames, east of Reims, in upper Alsace and elsewhere. In all the French drove for-

ward 12 very fortunate reconnaissance undertakings along different parts of the line.

"German units were also active. Their attempts to reach the French lines were temporarily successful in the vicinity of Bezonvaux and in Alsace. However, seven German raids at various other points broke down. French artillery kept the enemy constantly engaged along a widely scattered area.

"The British front was also the scene of numerous minor engagements. No important actions took place and the enemy, who was evidently busy with the grouping of units and disposing fresh forces recently arrived from other theaters in the front line, undertook only such reconnoitering engagements as to familiarize the new units with the nature of the terrain in front of them.

"In the Italian theater the enemy has again assumed an aggressive attitude. Germans May Move on Petrograd.

"The concentration of an important body of German cavalry in the vicinity of Riga is noted, and it is believed that the Germans may find it expedient to advance on Petrograd. It is difficult to surmise the exact status of affairs in southwestern Russia. The Russian contingents are evacuating the Armenian centers south of the Black sea.

"It is important to record that large contingents of Arabs are joining the forces of the shiek of Mecca, who is co-operating with the British.

"The Arabs have defeated the Turks in two encounters, occupied El Mazrah southeast of the Dead sea, and are advancing along the Hedjaz railway toward Maan."

## DOUBLE PROFITS CONDEMNED

Food Administration Objects to Resale by Wholesalers on Same Lot of Goods.

Washington, Feb. 21.—Double middlemen's profits on foodstuffs, with a resulting price advance to the consumer, caused by the practice of wholesalers in selling to one another to make up depreciated stocks, were condemned in a statement issued by the food administration.

Although often it is necessary to replenish supplies by purchase from another dealer, the statement said, there is no justification for placing two wholesale or retail profits on the same lot of goods.

## Dardanelles Facts After War.

London, Feb. 21.—The British government has decided that the second and final report of the Dardanelles investigation commission is not to be published until after the war. Publication at present, it is stated, "would not be in the public interest."

## TAKE ENEMY FIRMS IN MANILA

American Officials Seize Nine German and Austrian Concerns—Custodian Is Appointed.

Manila, P. I., Feb. 21.—Acting on behalf of the custodian of alien enemy property, Governor Harrison seized nine German and Austrian firms in Manila, naming one British and eight American receivers. The provincial branches of these houses were closed and placed in the hands of the custodial pending action by the receivers. Archibald Harrison, brother of the governor, is acting as deputy custodian of enemy property.

"Notwithstanding the miners' union has furnished more men for military service than has any other single industry, the union officials assert that more than 300,000,000 tons of coal can be mined annually in excess of the nation's maximum demand for all purposes, including export. If the railroads could furnish the cars necessary to handle the output.

Mine Workers in National Army. A service flag, said to be the largest in the country, and bearing 13,135 stars, was swung as a canopy in the hall where the United Mine Workers of America held their convention at Indianapolis.

## CONQUER RUSSIA, IS GERMAN PLAN

Kaiser's Foreign Minister Tells Reichstag That Drive Must Go On.

## WANTS OWN KIND OF PEACE

Declares Teutons No Longer Believe in Pacific Intentions of Russia—Austrian Press Aroused at New War Against Slavs.

Berlin, Feb. 21.—The war office announces that German forces have pushed forward northeast of Dvinsk.

Amsterdam, Feb. 21.—"We can no longer believe in the pacific intentions of Russia and must see that peace and order prevail in the occupied regions of the adjoining countries," Doctor von Kuehlmann, the German foreign minister, declared in addressing the reichstag main committee.

The foreign minister said he hoped Germany's new war with Russia would strengthen the inclination for peace at Petrograd.

"Even today," he added, "we are prepared to conclude a peace which corresponds with our interests."

## Teutons Disappointed.

London, Feb. 21.—Germany's new war against Russia apparently is not popular with the German or Austrian people, according to comment in the press of the two countries.

When the Brest Litovsk negotiations closed all talk in Germany was of peace. The school children were given a holiday and joy bells were rung. The public apparently did not discriminate between peace with Ukraine and with great Russia, but acclaimed it as a general peace with Russia.

George Bernhard, in the Vossische Zeitung, emphasizes this point and wants an explanation of who was responsible for this disappointment. The socialist Vorwaerts takes the same line and says:

"The more we meddle in Russian affairs the more we get away from peace. What must be done is to stick to the defense of our own soil and to make peace wherever possible without annexation or forcible amputations."

## Austrians Are Alarmed.

A large section of opinion in Austria-Hungary also is alarmed over the prospect of a renewal of war with Russia. Dispatches from Amsterdam and Zurich quote Austro-Hungarian newspapers to this effect and a Vienna dispatch to the Vossische Zeitung reports a rising of feeling against Germany on account of her action against Russia.

The Neue Freie Presse and the Reichspost argue that as Austria-Hungary no longer has any enemies on her eastern frontiers, she is not called to interfere in Russia internal affairs.

The Arbeiter Zeitung, Vienna's leading socialist newspaper, insists emphatically that Austria-Hungary must not take part in a new offensive. It thinks that the invasion of a totally defenseless country will gain the German government little support among the German workers, who, although they entered the war against czarism with enthusiasm, will not endorse its continuance for the purpose of overthrowing the labor government in Petrograd.

"Austria-Hungary," it adds, "cannot hinder the plans of the German imperialists, but it cannot and dare not join Germany in a new war on Russia."

## AMERICAN FLYER SHOT DOWN

Ten Machines of the Kaiser Attack Lone Yankee Aviator in France.

Washington, Feb. 21.—Vice Admiral Sims advised the navy department that the American seaplane in which Ensign Albert Dalton Sturtevant, U. S. N. R. F., was lost, is claimed by the Germans to have been shot down in flames. Ensign Sturtevant was second pilot in the machine. "Apparently this machine was attacked by ten enemy planes," the dispatch states.

## WAR TRADE BOARD RULING

Body Authorizes Entry of Imports in Transit February 16—License Is Unnecessary.

Washington, Feb. 21.—The war trade board published a general license through the customs service authorizing the entry into the United States without individual import license of all commodities which were in transit on February 16 and for which an import license was unnecessary before the president's proclamation of that date.

Excess Profits Tax Blanks Received. Washington, Feb. 21.—Corporation excess profits return blanks were received at the treasury from the public printer and distribution to revenue collectors was begun.

DR. ALICE GREGORY



Within a month the Women's Overseas Hospital unit, U. S. A., will start for France to take up its duties in the first women's overseas hospital established by the National American Woman Suffrage association in Gulsard, in the Alsine region. The unit consists of four doctors, nurses, pharmacists and about 40 auxiliaries. The photograph is of Dr. Alice Gregory, who is head physician of the unit.

## YANKEES TRAP FOES

U. S. Sentry Gives Alarm and Guns Riddle Raiders.

German Airplane, Disguised With Entente Markings, Fires Into American Trench.

With the American Army in France, Feb. 21.—A German patrol, ready to ambush an American patrol, was discovered early in the morning by a sentry, who gave the alarm by a rifle shot. Then the American machine guns riddled the enemy.

The Germans fled, carrying their casualties with them, but the ground where they had been was later found to be covered with tell-tale red stains.

The sentry saw two Germans near the parapet and moved to a listening post for a better view. He then challenged. A shot in his direction was the reply. The sentry fired at the enemy and heard a German shout as the bullet probably hit its mark. Germans then appeared to grow out of the ground all around and began to throw grenades in the direction of the American trenches. Machine guns and rifles went into action from another section of the trench, sending a hail of bullets into the enemy, who retired on the run.

There were no casualties among the Americans. It is thought possible that this was the same patrol which set a successful ambush last week. The American forces feel that they have at least exacted partial reparation.

Gas shells in considerable numbers were sent against the American batteries, but no damage was done. Neither were there any casualties.

One enemy plane, which was disguised with entente markings, flew over one of the American trenches and fired a stream of machine gun bullets into it, but without any result. The enemy aviator escaped.

## GERMANS IN WEST ARE QUIET

Offensive Movement Still Waits—U. S. Artillery Scatters Shrapnel Over German Trenches.

London, Feb. 21.—Although quite prepared to advance against defenseless Russia, the Germans still make no offensive movement on the western front. Activity on the British and French fronts has been confined almost wholly to artillery bombardments, particularly on the Arras-St Quentin sector. In Champagne and northeast of Verdun. On the American sector a German patrol has been dispersed with casualties and the American artillery has been scattering shrapnel over the German trenches. Raiding and artillery operations are becoming more active on the Italian front.

Earthquake in China Kills 2,000. Tokyo, Feb. 21.—Two thousand persons were killed or injured in an earthquake which practically destroyed the Chinese city of Swatow, according to a dispatch from Hangkong.

## GERMANS TAKE 2,500 RUSS

Also Capture Several Hundred Guns and Great Amount of Rolling Stock.

Berlin, Feb. 21.—The German invaders of Russia have taken 2,500 prisoners, several hundred guns and a great amount of rolling stock, according to the war office.